for NH works in the North Eastern region. A crash programme for improvement of riding quality of the NHs has also been started since 1999-2000 and an aggregate length of about 616 km has so far been taken up in the region under this programme. For development and maintenance of the NHs, an amount of Rs. 383.77 crore has been allocated for the year 2001-2002.

(b) The estimated cost of the on-going development works is about Rs. 1729 crore.

(c) Details of funds spent on construction and maintenance of NHs in the North Eastern region during the last three years are given below:

Year	Construction (Rs. crore)	Maintenance (Rs. crores)
1998-1999	120.58	68.97
1999-2000	168.71	77.06
2000-2001	I 214.68	89.73

World Bank assistance for Development of roads in NER

3482. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the World Bank during the last three years for the development of roads and National Highways and other transport infrastructure facilities in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds utilised so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) This Ministry is primarily concerned with development of National Highways and roads other than National Highways are the responsibility of the respective State Governments. No financial assistance has been provided by the World Bank during the last 3 years for the development of National Highways in the North Eastern Region.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.